blacknewsdigest

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FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Week of August 14, 1989

BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS
IN JULY, BLS REPORTS

WASHINGTON--The unemployment rate for black workers was 10.9 percent in July, down one percentage point from the previous month's rate, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The decrease was largely due to the jobless rate for black teenagers which fell markedly during the month from 36.5 percent in June to 27.4 percent in July.

The rate for white workers was 4.6 percent; it was 9.0 percent for Hispanic workers.

For the nation as a whole, BLS reported that payroll employment continued to increase in July and unemployment was little changed. Both the overall jobless rate and that for civilian workers were 5.2 percent.

Nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the survey of business establishments, rose by 170,000. Jobs in the private sector (excluding government) increased by 195,000. Total civilian employment, as measured by the survey of households, showed little change over the month.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed persons, 6.5 million, and the civilian worker unemployment rate, 5.2 percent, were virtually unchanged in July, after seasonal adjustment. In fact, the civilian worker rate has been either 5.2 or 5.3 percent for 4 consecutive months. Jobless rates for adult men (4.3 percent), adult women (5.0 percent), and whites (4.6 percent) held steady from the previous month. There was a small decline among teenagers (to 14.7 percent). The rate for Hispanic workers (9.0 percent) rose, while that for black workers (10.9 percent) showed a decrease, largely because the quite volatile rate for black teenagers (27.4 percent) fell markedly.

The number of persons working part time for economic reasons--sometimes referred to as the partially unemployed--was at a seasonally adjusted level of 4.8 million in July. This series has been trending down over the past year.

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total civilian employment was essentially unchanged in July at a seasonally adjusted level of 117.5 million. The proportion of the working-age population that is employed (the employment-population ratio) was 63.0 percent, about where it has been for the past 7 months. Civilian employment has grown by 2.4 million over the past year.

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The civilian labor force, at 124.0 million, and the labor force participation rate, 66.5 percent, were also about unchanged from the previous month. Over the past year, the civilian labor force has risen by 2.4 million, as the number of adult women and men in the labor force expanded by 1.6 million and 1.0 million, respectively, while the number of teenagers--a declining population group--fell by 270,000.

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HOUSEHOLD DATA **HOUSEHOLD DATA**

Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	July 1988	June 1989	July 1989	July 1988	Mar. 1989	Apr. 1989	May 1989	June 1989	July 1989
WHITE									
Civilian noninstitutional population	158,279	159,297	159,400	158,279	159,020	159,098	159,200	159,297	159,400
Civilian labor force	106,381	107,762	108,113	104,651	105,988	106,312	106,164	106,455	106,424
Participation rate	67.2	67.6	67.8	66.1	66.7	66.8	66.7	66.8	66.8
Employed	101,432	102,869	103,215	99,761	101,554	101,458	101,465	101,693	101,581
Employment-population ratio[2]	64.1	64.6	64.8	63.0	63.9	63.8	63.7	63.8	63.7
Unemployed	4,949	4,893	4,898	4,890	4,434	4,854	4,699	4,762	4,843
Unemployment rate	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.2	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.6
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	55,196	55,985	55,922	54,712	55,362	55,448	55,249	55,557	55,437
Participation rate	78.9	79.3	79.1	78.2	78.6	78.7	78.3	78.7	78.4
Employed	53,182	54,035	53,983	52,557	53,387	53,246	53,248	53,500	53,343
Employment-population ratio[2]	76.1	76.5	76.4	75.2	75.8	75.5	75.5	75.8	75.5
Unemployed	2,014	1,950	1,939	2,155	1,995	2,202	2,001	2,057	2,094
Unemployment rate	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.6	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.8
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	42,568	43,847	43,869	42,958	43,780	44,016	44,084	44,050	44,302
Participation rate	55.7	56.9	56.8	56.2	56.9	57.2	57.2	57.1	57.4
Employed	40,671	42,067	41,902	41,124	42,115	42,207	42,282	42,236	42,411
Employment-population ratio[2]	53.2	54.6	54.3	53.8	54.7	54.8	54.9	54.8	55.0
Unemployed	1,897	1,780	1,967	1,834	1,665	1,810	1,803	1,814	1,891
Unemployment rate	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.3	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	8,617	7,931	8,322	6,981	6,826	6,848	6,831	6,848	6,685
Participation rate	72.6	68.6	72.1	58.9	58.7	59.0	59.0	59.2	57.9
Employed	7,579	6,768	7,330	6,080	6,052	6,005	5,936	5,957	5,827
Employment-population ratio[2]	63.9	58.5	63.5	51.3	52.1	51.8	51.3	51.5	50.5
Unemployed	1,038	1,163	992	901	774	843	895	891	858
Unemployment rate	12.0	14.7	11.9	12.9	11.3	12.3	13.1	13.0	12.8
Men	12.9	14.4	11.3	14.3	12.3	13.1	14.8	13.4	12.4
Women	11.1	15.0	12.6	11.4	10.2	11.5	11.2	12.6	13.4
BLACK									
Civilian noninstitutional population	20,715	21,012	21,038	20,715	20,930	20,956	20,986	21,012	21,038
Civilian labor force	13,700	13,751	13,978	13,283	13,425	13,287	13,444	13,600	13,555
Participation rate	66.1	65.4	66.4	64.1	64.1	63.4	64.1	64.7	64.4
Employed	12,031	12,023	12,364	11,761	11,961	11,846	11,968	11,982	12,082
Employment-population ratio[2]	58.1	57.2	58.8	56.8	57.1	56.5	57.0	57.0	57.4
Unemployed	1,669	1,728	1,614	1,522	1,464	1,442	1,476	1,618	1,473
Unemployment rate	12.2	12.6	11.5	11.5	10.9	10.8	11.0	11.9	10.9
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	6,161	6,240	6,286	6,080	6,230	6,171	6,207	6,200	6,205
Participation rate	74.9	74.6	75.1	73.9	74.8	74.0	74.3	74.1	74.1
Employed	5,569	5,653	5,708	5,495	5,620	5,554	5,622	5,619	5,629
Employment-population ratio[2]	67.7	67.6	68.2	66.8	67.5	66.6	67.3	67.2	67.2
Unemployed	592	588	578	585	611	617	586	581	576
Unemployment rate	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.6	9.8	10.0	9.4	9.4	9.3
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	6,284	6,343	6,400	6,286	6,315	6,227	6,340	6,405	6,394
Participation rate	61.0	60.6	61.0	61.0	60.5	59.6	60.6	61.2	61.0
Employed	5,616	5,680	5,742	5,640	5,739	5,677	5,740	5,732	5,759
Employment-population ratio[2]	54.5	54.2	54.7	54.7	55.0	54.3	54.9	54.7	54.9
Unemployed	668	663	658	646	576	550	600	674	635
Unemployment rate	10.6	10.5	10.3	10.3	9.1	8.8	9.5	10.5	9.9
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	1,254	1,168	1,291	917	880	889	897	994	956
Participation rate	57.4	53.7	59.4	42.0	40.5	40.9	41.3	45.7	44.0
Employed	846	690	913	626	602	615	606	631	694
Employment-population ratio[2]	38.7	31.7	42.0	28.7	27.7	28.3	27.9	29.0	31.9
Unemployed	409	478	378	291	278	274	291	363	262
Unemployment rate	32.6	40.9	29.3	31.7	31.6	30.8	32.4	36.5	27.4
Men	32.3	36.4	25.5	31.2	28.6	35.5	36.9	33.5	22.1
Women	32.9	46.4	33.6	32.4	34.8	26.2	28.4	40.2	33.1

See footnotes at end of table.

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Week of August 14, 1989

BLACK GROUPS AWARDED FUNDS
FOR JOBS FOR OLDER WORKERS

WASHINGTON--The National Urban League, Inc., and the National Center on Black Aged, Inc., are among 10 national sponsors receiving grants which will benefit unemployed, low-income older workers, Secretary of Labor Elizabeth has announced.

The two black organizations will develop part-time, community-service jobs with the nearly $21 million in grants received from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The funding for the black organizations is part of a national program of $343.8 million for 65,800 jobs for older workers across the country.

The funds for the U.S. Department of Labor's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) will go to employment projects sponsored by nine national nonprofit organizations (including two new sponsors), the U.S. Forest Service, and state and territorial governments. The new sponsors are the National Pacific/Asian Resource Center on Aging and the National Indian Council on Aging.

"In this increasingly tight labor market, we need to better utilize the talents and experiences of our older workers," said Secretary Dole. "SCSEP offers many of them an opportunity to learn new skills, reenter the workforce, and help their local communities."

The 10 national sponsors receiving grants are:

. Asociacion Nacional Pro Personas Mayores	$ 9,603,287
. The National Center on Black Aged, Inc.	$ 9,563,867
. National Council on the Aging	$30,531,316
. American Association of Retired Persons	$41,255,153
. National Council of Senior Citizens	$52,818,125
. U.S. Forest Service	$22,964,605
. National Urban League, Inc.	$11,412,703
. Green Thumb, Inc.	$88,017,615
. National Pacific/Asian Resource Center on Aging	$ 1,007,227
. National Indian Council on Aging	$ 1,009,102

The nine national nonprofit organizations and the U.S. Forest Service receive $268,183,000 of the SCSEP funds. The remaining $75,641,000 have been allocated to the states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and the Northern Marianas.

SCSEP is authorized by the Older Americans Act and helps to create part-time community-service jobs for low-income people 55 years of age and older. The jobs are in such activities as day care; hospital care; programs for the handicapped; and literacy, conservation and restoration projects.

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Participants receive annual physical examinations, personal and job-related counseling, job training and placement into unsubsidized jobs. They are paid the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is higher.

Most states operate SCSEP projects through their agencies for the aging, but seven states -- Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, and South Dakota -- have assigned operations for SCSEP programs to one or more of the 10 national nonprofit sponsors.

As much as possible, SCSEP sponsors coordinate their activities with other service providers. These include Job Training Partnership Act service-delivery areas, local Employment Service offices, private industry, and community colleges.

Nearly 80 percent of SCSEP participants are above the age of 60, and over two thirds are women. More than 37 percent are minority-group members, and about 50 percent have less than a high school education.

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Week of August 14, 1989

BLACK, OTHER YOUTHS TO BE SERVED
IN NEW JOB CORPS CENTERS IN 4 STATES

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole has announced the selection of Alabama, Alaska, California and North Dakota as sites for four new Job Corps centers. These centers will serve disadvantaged youths, including blacks and other minorities.

"These new centers will bring Job Corps' highly successful program to Alaska and North Dakota for the first time, and they will enhance existing programs in Alabama and California," Dole said. "They provide excellent opportunities to demonstrate how federal, state and local public and private resources can work together to serve disadvantaged youth."

The Job Corps is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor and currently operates 107 centers throughout the United States. It serves some 65,000 disadvantaged youth annually. Now entering its 26th year, the program provides intensive basic education and job training, primarily in residential facilities, for 16 through 21-year old participants.

The four future Job Corps centers will be located in Gadsden, Ala., on the campus of Gadsden State Community College; Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska, (specific site to be selected); Cleveland National Forest, Calif., on the site of the former Mt. Laguna Air Force Station; and Minot, N.D., at the now-vacant John Moses V.A. Hospital.

The new centers will each serve approximately 250 Job Corps members. They will open within two to three years, after completion of renovation and rehabilitation work.

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FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Work and Family Clearinghouse of the U.S. Labor Department's Women's Bureau provides information and guidance in dependent care assistance programs for employers. The Clearinghouse offers information in five broad areas: direct services, information services, financial assistance, flexible policies and public-private partnership.

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Dependent care problems affect a large portion of the U.S. employee population, according to the U.S. Labor Department. Bureau of Labor Statistics research shows that 37 percent of the work force is comprised of working parents with children under age 18.

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More than half -- 56 percent -- of women with children under age six are in the labor force, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Most women who bear children during their careers return to work soon after their babies are born; more than half of all married women are back at work by the time their children are a year old.

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